

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the productive Telephonic Interview conducted on September 7, 2004. The above amendment is supplemental to the March 26, 2004, Amendment under 35 C.F.R §1.111 and associated Remarks, and presupposes acceptance and entry thereof. Upon consideration, Claims 49, 56 and 58-62 are herein amended to better and simply describe the present invention with correct grammar and in language consistent with that found in the originally filed January 2, 1998, Specification. Claims 49-62 as amended herein are believed to be fully supported by the originally filed specification and to be in allowable form. The Applicant respectfully asserts that no claim has been narrowed within the meaning of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.* (Fed.Cir. November 29, 2000). Thus, favorable consideration of the present continuation application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendment and these remarks.

Claim 49 is herein amended to clarify the location of the color markings on the otherwise identical outlets. Applicant respectfully asserts that Claim 49 is clearly allowable over Friesen, U.S. Patent 6,496,884. Friesen teaches the color coding of computer ports to which peripheral devices are connected. Friesen presupposes that different peripheral manufacturers will provide identical colored plugs or cords for connection with the computer port, and that a set of colored labels with corresponding colors may be provided for the computer. Peripherals made by the same manufactures as the computer could be so provided with coordinated colors. However, Friesen states “some of these ports have similar or the same physical appearance. For example, both the printer port and the serial port of many IBM PCs use a DB25 connector. The game port and the video port also use DB-type connectors. As a result, it is very difficult for an untrained person to correctly connect appropriate peripherals to the designated ports without spending (sic) tremendous amount of time. If the wrong connections are made (e.g., connecting a modem to a printer port), the peripheral and/or the computer could be damaged.”

Applicant believes that Friesen thus ignores the practicality and economics which result from having identical connecting cords common to different peripherals and/or manufacturers. Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that expecting the plethora of manufacturers of computer peripheral devices to somehow standardize or coordinate color coding of the peripheral devices, is impractical and unlikely. Applicant respectfully asserts that Friesen therefore neither suggests,

teaches, nor makes obvious the combination of elements as recited in Claim 49.

Independent Claim 49 recites:

An AC electrical power distribution system comprising:
a housing having a plurality of substantially identical AC power distribution outlets for connecting AC electrical power to a plurality of devices,
said housing having a plurality of colored areas for selectively identifying each outlet of said power distribution outlets,
each colored area of said colored areas on said housing being different in color from any other such colored area, and
each of said colored areas assigned to a different device.

The present claims combine a power distribution system having a plurality of substantially identical outlets with color coding means to simply associate an identical color with a device which is plugged into an outlet, which device may or may not be computer associated. Claim 49 is neither limited to nor necessarily associated with any specific electricity consuming system. Rather, it is universally applicable to any such system. Applicant respectfully asserts therefore that Friesen, which is limited to computer systems, neither teaches, suggests, nor makes obvious the present invention.

Lee, U.S. Patent 5,589,718, teaches a power line conditioner having multiple outlets with which one or more AC plugs may be connected. The outlets into which the plugs are insertable are associated with one or more power conditioning circuits in any combination, thus the outlets are not substantially identical as is the case in the present invention. Lee teaches that color coding of the outlets is associated with the specific combination of power conditioning circuits which are provided to the outlets, i.e., each conditioning combination is indicated by a different color. Lee is silent on the applicability to other devices. Therefore Applicant respectfully asserts that Lee neither teaches, suggests, nor makes obvious color coding of substantially identical power outlets of a simple power distribution apparatus without such conditioning circuits and devices plugged into such outlets.

Claim 56 is amended to correct the grammar so that the color association of the colored outlets with the colored marking means is clearly stated. No narrowing of the claim results from this amendment.

Independent Claim 58 is amended to parallel Claim 49 and provide proper antecedent basis for the subsequent depending claims. No narrowing of the claim results from this amendment.

Claims 59-62 are amended merely to correct the grammar so that a plural noun in each claim is associated with a plural verb. No narrowing of the claims results from these amendments.

Therefore, in view of the above remarks and those in the March 26, 2004, Amendment Response, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn and the pending claims as amended herein be passed to allowance.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Claims 49, 56 and 58-62 are herein amended to better describe the present invention in language consistent with that found in the originally filed January 2, 1998, Specification. Claims 49-62 are believed to be fully supported by the originally filed specification and to now be in allowable form. Thus, favorable consideration of the present continuation application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendment and these remarks. The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned for any reason whatsoever which would advance the pending claims or the foregoing proposed amended claims to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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